

Post-Event Summary Report

Name of Event: Pre-WHCoA Regional Event

Date of Event: May 17, 2005

Location of Event: Keith County Senior Center, Ogallala, Nebraska

Number attending: 58

Sponsoring Organizations: West Central Area Agency on Aging
Aging Office of Western Nebraska
State Unit on Aging

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Priority Issue #1: Planning Along the Life Span

- ❑ Dominant themes:
 - Social Security is not enough to live on. People need to do more financial planning
 - High cost of medical and prescription costs
 - What to do with free time when you get older
 - Legal issues need to be made more clear (power of attorney, living wills)
- ❑ Barriers:
 - Lack of funding
 - Everything hinges on you health. If you're healthy, there aren't as many problems. If you're not healthy, things are much more difficult.

Priority Issue #2: Health and Long -Term Living

- ❑ Dominant themes:
 - Expansion of mental health services needed for the aging
 - Having access to hospice in every community
 - Need to do a better job educating seniors and their families on choices available in health care
 - Need standard long-term care policy
 - Support home-based long-term care

- ❑ Barriers:
 - The future of Medicare
 - Raising cost of prescriptions

Priority Issue #3: Our Community

- ❑ Dominate themes:
 - Community infrastructure—accessibility for seniors
 - Job opportunities for older people in the community
 - Rebuild our sense of community and neighborhood involvement for mutual care
 - Provide opportunities for recreation and social engagement geared toward aging
 - Affordable housing
- ❑ Barriers:
 - Current system does not provide easy access to information and services for the aging
 - Lack of care givers
 - Limited dollars

Priority Issue #4: Social Engagement

- ❑ Dominate themes:
 - How to fill time, loneliness
 - Senior companions needed for homebound population
 - Available weekend transportation
- ❑ Barriers:
 - Negative stigma society places on aging

Priority Issue #5: Work Place of the Future

- ❑ Dominate themes:
 - Possible job sharing opportunities
 - The need for continual education
 - Possibility of home-based jobs
 - People still needing to work because of the benefits (e.g., insurance)
- ❑ Barriers:
 - Information technology continually changing, hard to keep up
 - Age discrimination
 - Minimum wage is not keeping up with the cost of living

Priority Issue #6: Market Place

❑ Dominate themes:

- Market to seniors to get them to understand that products and services are their right, and are not handouts
- Seniors need to take ownership at senior centers and other services they use
- Marketing needs to address: young elderly, middle elderly, and senior elderly
- Stricter regulations needed to protect against deceptive advertising

❑ Barriers:

- Shortage of paid workers for elderly services

A final statewide Pre-WHCoA event will held on June 23, 2005. During this event, a compilation of the past regional events will be presented and possible solutions for each priority issue will be investigated.

